

AMAA news

Հրատարակութիւն Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան
Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America
January/February 2012 - XLVI No. 1 (ISSN 1097-0924)



**Sunday School Children of
Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church - Aleppo, Syria**



Christmas Celebrations in Yerevan, Armenia

AMAA NEWS

is a publication of

The Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652

Tel.: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015

E-mail: amaa@amaa.org

Website: www.amaa.org

The AMAA is a Tax Exempt, not for profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

Levon Filian, Executive Director

Armen Beylerian, Field Director

Phyllis Dohanian, Director of Development and Marketing

David Aynejian, Director of Finance

OFFICERS

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D., President

Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., Vice President

Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice President

Thomas Momjian, Esq., Recording Secretary

Arsine Phillips, Esq., Recording Secretary

Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Treasurer

Anita Buchakjian, Assistant Treasurer

EDITORIAL BOARD

Levon Filian, Editor

Louisa Janbazian, Associate Editor, Art Director

Jane Wenning, Contributor

Phyllis Dohanian, Advisor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please send all corrections, along with the old address, to:
AMAA NEWS

31 West Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652

E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

PRINTING

Printsolutions.info

Englewood, NJ

Tel.: (201) 567-9622

Now you can join us on Facebook (AMAA)
and follow us on Twitter (AMAATweets)

Editorial Message

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D.

Our founders, meeting in Worcester, MA in 1918, may have been visionaries. But just as likely they were practical immigrant Armenians who gathered to take action to help the families of their countrymen who had been killed and disbursed throughout the Near East and the world in the first genocide of the bloodiest century in history. Their aim was to organize themselves to help the survivors rebuild their lives materially and spiritually in new lands. To those ends, our Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been striving for the past ninety-four years as the missionary arm of our evangelical churches around the world.



Now, as then, our emphasis is on strengthening the spiritual lives of our people while supporting their physical needs. While our people and churches are all over the world, our emphasis until the tragic 1988 earthquake which devastated Armenia was the Near East because of the large population of survivors. The 1988 earthquake required the collective effort of most Armenian groups to help. The major work of the AMAA since that time has been assisting our people in Armenia with their physical and spiritual needs.

Our emphasis in Armenia today is on building — building churches. Each Sunday in Armenia, approximately 1,600 people worship in the 32 meeting places that have been established. Some meet in old movie houses, others have new church facilities. Our goal is to continue building churches and repairing existing facilities until we have the buildings to meet the needs of these our fellow Christians. The AMAA is currently beginning or in the process of constructing six churches in Armenia and planning the renovation/repair of additional churches.

Another major emphasis is the work in education and with youth. Not only are we operating two camps in Armenia and Karabagh for youth, but also several kindergartens in each area. We also support the outstanding Avedisian School with grades kindergarten through ninth grade. The school, under the principalship of Mrs. Melania Keghamian, has earned the highest awards in the country for the performance of its students. Plans are now underway for the construction of a new high school in Yerevan to expand the learning opportunities through the twelfth grade. Specific information about how you can help with this outstanding project will be forthcoming.

With so much activity in Armenia, it is important for our AMAA to continue to do all that we can for our Armenian evangelical churches and schools around the world. As I am writing these thoughts, I am mindful that our people in Syria are now enduring a time of stress and uncertainty. We support eleven churches and six schools in Syria and we must be mindful of their needs as the political and violent actions taking place are brought to us on our living room televisions daily. Let us keep them in our prayers and help with their physical needs.

I ask for the support in prayer, effort and substance of every person reading this. Your support will help a dedicated staff and the many volunteers who work daily for the success of the AMAA in all its manifestations all over the world. May God bless you and your family and may He guide the efforts of the AMAA. □

Christmas Joy Comes To Children in Armenia and Karabagh

Since the early days of its Armenia ministries, the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), with the support of The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Armenia office, has organized Christmas programs throughout Armenia and Karabagh for thousands of children, to bring them all the joy and hope that Christmas has to offer.

During the 2011-12 Christmas season, AMAA Armenia organized 55 Christmas programs in 42 towns and villages throughout Armenia and Karabagh. Over 8,500 children and 2,000 parents participated this year. These programs were organized not only for the children from the AMAA sponsorship programs and those who attend Sunday schools, but also for others who graduated from the program in order to proclaim the meaning and importance of Christ's birth.

Christmas programs were held with the help of the Christian Education workers and volunteers who did not spare any effort preparing for them. They also included talented children who did their best in decorating, acting in theatrical programs, singing, dancing and reciting Bible verses.

Each Christmas program was creative, joyous, colourful, funny and instructive in proclaiming the meaning of Christ's birth. It is impossible to choose which was the best Christmas program. These programs are designed to bring Christmas cheer and to educate the children who otherwise would have no opportunity to participate in such events. Those living in remote regions are rarely exposed to the arts or the Gospel. The programs consist of dramas that captivate the children, songs that they enjoy hearing, and the eagerly awaited Santa Claus.

AMAA Gyumri and Evangelical Church of Armenia prepared a Christmas fairy tale entitled "Christmas Messy" for children and teenagers. The play was

shown in the "Oktober" theater stage. The program began with carols followed by the Artik office drama group's theatrical presentation.

The play focused on three important characters who meet each other in the forest: Santa Claus, Snow Man and Snow Maiden. The animals of the forest decide to celebrate Christmas but an old woman from the forest wants to spoil the joyful celebration. After a long story, the animals, Santa and the Snow Man uncover the evil intrigue of the witch. They manage to find the most beautiful fir tree in the forest and put the Lambent Star on top of it. In the middle of the play, Santa asks the animals if they know about the Lambent Star. Santa then tells the story of Christ's miraculous birth. Christ's birth from the movie "Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Luke" was shown on the wall with the video projector.

At the end of the program, gifts that the AMAA and ECA prepared for the children and young people of the Shirak region were distributed. In general, about 25 volunteers and employees collaborated on this Christmas activity to present to the children and teenagers in the three centers. We give glory to God for such occasions and opportunities where we can celebrate the wonderful birth of Jesus Christ with our children.

In Yerevan, the ECA theatrical group named "Hayasa"



Christmas Celebrations in Tumanyan, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Vardenis, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Vanatzor, Armenia

presented a performance called “The Gift of Heavenly King.” The play, produced by Nouné Abrahamyan, was given four times. Nearly 1,200 children and their families attended the program.

The performance was about an orphaned little girl, Rose, who was a waitress at the house of a rich lady. The lady had everything but a good heart and her daughter, Agnes, a spoiled child, was disabled. Rose did whatever Agnes wished because she had a very kind heart as she knew Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. One day, Rose told Agnes about Jesus Christ and His wonderful birth and miraculous life story. After hearing the story, the heart of Agnes changed. She turned into a kind and lovely girl and she gave all of her Christmas gifts to the orphaned children of the neighborhood. When she changed her mind and heart, God healed her disabled legs. Agnes stood up and started jumping for joy. At the end of the play, the family celebrated Christmas together.

The performance was very inspiring and all who attended were deeply touched. At the end of the performance, the children were welcomed by Santa Claus and received a gift from the AMAA.

Many members from the “Hayasa” theatrical group today are students of Yerevan State Theatrical Institute. They learned their first steps in “Hayasa” and continue to participate in the group’s presentations.

The audiences of all the Christmas programs were delighted and very excited. In the end, the children and the parents participated and had fun and appreciated all the work that went into planning the programs. The children enjoyed Santa and the songs and games. Thousands of children received Christmas gift packages of candy, “Shoghik” children, and the youth

magazine and educational materials at these programs. Most important, both parents and children saw, heard and experienced the Christmas message of God's love.

In most Christmas programs, there were guests from the state authorities who also contribute by providing the halls, palaces of culture, and playhouses.

All of the photos and videos from the Christmas programs are kept in the Christian Education Department so that it is possible to share them and to help organize similar programs in other towns.

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of AMAA Armenia, and on behalf of the thousands of participating children, we thank those who prayed for and contributed toward these Christmas programs. We are also very appreciative of the volunteers of the Camp-Christmas Program and the Orphan and Child Care Committees. We acknowledge their creative efforts at raising funds for and generating awareness of these Christmas programs.

We thank our partner organizations such as SEL (France) and Dorcas Aid International of the Netherlands for their contributions to these programs. Most important, we praise God for enabling us all to reach out to these children with the love of Jesus Christ. □



Christmas Celebrations in Sevan, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Bureghavan, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Kapan, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Tashir, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Vanatzor, Armenia



Christmas Celebrations in Abovian, Armenia

Inter Communal Worship Service And Prayer Week in Aleppo

According to the calendar of the Middle East Council of Churches, January 18-25 is dedicated to prayer and devotions for the unification of the Christian Churches of the area.

Under the auspices of the Christian Community heads of Aleppo, Syria, a special united worship service took place on January 26, 2012, at 7 pm, with the presence of 11 clergy at the Greek Catholic Church of Aleppo. This year's theme "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" was based on I Corinthians 15:51-58.

The program included special music on guitar by Father Fadi Najjar followed by the welcoming words of Yuhanna Johnbart,

the community head. The program also included songs, readings and prayers with the participation of the clergy.

Rev. Haroutune Selimian, head of the Armenian Evangelical Community, delivered the sermon "Victory through Christ." He said, "In this world, everything is subject to change. They can be positive or negative. But there are truths that can never be changed, like Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His grace, love and care are never subject for change. Christ came to us to change each one of us and make us a new creation through Him."



At the end of the worship service, His Eminence Archbishop Bedros Mirpatian offered a meditation "Be Ardent for Love and Care." The worship service ended with the benediction of the 11 clergy followed by a fellowship hour with all who were present at the service. □

Special Christmas Program to Strengthen The Christian-Islam Co-Relationship

January 6 was a special day for the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church of Aleppo, Syria. The Sunday School students, the Youth and the Young People's Group, under the leadership of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Pastor of the Church, welcomed a group of young men and women of the Islam faith, to celebrate together the birth of Jesus Christ, to show as nations, with our different life style, language and culture, the strength of coming and being together as the creation of God.

The Service started with Christmas songs lead by Samuel Muncherian. Rev. Yusef Ousda Jabbour, Pastor of the Assyrian Evangelical Church, read the Scripture in Arabic. Pastor Elias Jabbour offered a Christmas meditation and a prayer. The Sunday School Children sang Christmas carols. The Sermon was offered by Rev. Selimian based on Luke 2:1-20.

After the sermon, the students of the Armenian Evangelical "Armiss" Musical

School presented Christmas songs under the direction and accompaniment of Mrs. Shoghagat Apartian Selimian. At the conclusion of the program, Rev. Selimian offered Christmas Season's greetings in Arabic, bearing in mind the injustices caused to humanity in general, and to the Syrian country in particular, and wished that the days ahead are filled with peace and heavenly blessings. □



CAHL: Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon Home For The Armenian Elderly

“A community or a nation is appraised by the way it treats its weakest members.” This is a phrase, the variants of which are repeated throughout history by different people. It would follow then, that the more Christian a community is or claims to be, the more attentive it should be to the well-being of its less fortunate members — the handicapped, the incapacitated, the marginalized, the mentally challenged, the elderly, the destitute, the “weak.” ***“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*** (Matthew 25:40)

CAHL, an acronym for “Center for the Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon”, is an institution jointly run by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) and the Armenian Orthodox Church – Catholicosate of Cilicia. It is located in Northeast Beirut, a dense suburb populated mostly by Armenians, and serves the entire Armenian community in Lebanon, irrespective of denominational or political affiliation.

The roots of CAHL go back to 1915, to the massacres unleashed by the Turks against defenseless Armenian men, women and children. Present in Turkey at the time were a number of Protestant missionaries operating schools and hospitals in Armenian communities. As Turkish savagery depopulated these communities, the missionaries did what they could, under difficult and dangerous conditions, to save the lives of Armenian children in their communities. These children, now orphaned, numbered in the thousands. They were protected, cared for and, as conditions permitted, moved to safer areas in Syria and Lebanon.

One missionary couple, who devoted their adult lifetime to caring for these young victims of “brutality, pestilence and war”, was Dr. Jacob Kuenzler and his wife Elizabeth. Dr. Kuenzler first went to Turkey in 1895 as a medical missionary from Switzerland, in time to witness the general massacre instigated by the Turkish Sultan that year against the Armenian population.

Dr. Kuenzler’s daughter, Ida, later described her parents as follows:

“Jacob Kuenzler joined a German mission at Urfa in Turkey in the closing years of the last century. He was to serve the Armenian community in Turkey in the closing years of the last century. He was to serve the Armenian community in Turkey for twenty-five years during the appalling days of massacre and revolt. His marriage to Elizabeth in 1905 had brought an ideal life-partner and together they faced the dangers and hardships of this terrible time.”

In the early 1920s, Papa and Mama Kuenzler began working for the Near East Relief Organization and their abiding achievement was in evacuating thousands of Armenian orphans from Turkey to the security of Lebanon. Here they were in charge of an orphanage in the beautiful village of Ghazir. Not only did the orphans find the



love and care they so desperately needed, but they were taught useful trades and prepared for their future life. In a further great phase of their careers, Papa and Mama Kuenzler in the 1930s transformed the lives of refugees in Beirut by setting up pioneer houses and homes for widows. Once again they taught these unfortunate people self-reliance and brought them dignity and hope.

By 1922, the number of Armenian orphans who had been brought to Aleppo, Syria exceeded the resources of the local orphanage. The Near East Relief Organization decided to send 120 blind orphans to an orphanage in Jerusalem that maintained a section for blind children. The group got as far as Lebanon but was unable to reach its destination because the British authorities in Palestine

refused to admit them without payment of a large fee per child. This impasse lasted for several months, as the blind orphans in Lebanon waited in squalid makeshift quarters. Dr. Kuenzler at this time was in charge of a girls' orphanage in Lebanon. When he heard about the blind orphans, he arranged to have them brought to his orphanage, where he and his wife made room for them and provided the love and care that nurtured the children physically and spiritually.

In 1926, another Swiss missionary, Theodore Visser, was given the responsibility of supervising the blind orphans. He and his wife, Alice, ran this orphanage for 20 years. In 1946, the orphanage was moved to the Bourj Hammoud sector of Beirut and, under its new name, "Institute for the Blind", was run by Karl Meyer and his wife, Marta. In 1963, Peter Braunschweig and his wife, Heidi, took charge of the Institute.

In 1964, the Institute was handed over to the Armenian Evangelical community. At that time, an old age home section was added to the Institute, consequently, its present name was given to the Institute to reflect its scope. Felix Zeigler was appointed as Manager of the Center in 1968. During these 14 years he and his wife, Hannah, ran the Center, handicraft classes were expanded and a new building for the elderly was begun.

When the Zeiglers retired in 1982, the supervisory duties were assigned to Krikor Bizdikian, who became the Center's first Armenian Director. In 1988, the late Kevork Karaboyadjian took charge of the Center and his enthusiasm and vision carried CAHL to a new dimension. Sebouh Terzian assumed the position of Director in February 2012.

Over the years, the services provided by CAHL have gradually changed, in step with the changing needs of the Armenian community in Lebanon. A part of CAHL's services in the past has been a school and a workshop for the blind and the deaf. Structured classes were offered for children and young people who were blind or deaf. We thank God for the advancement of medicine which has reduced the blind and the deaf numbers drastically.

Today, CAHL's main services are:

- **The school** which educates children with slow learning capabilities and with learning disabilities. Currently there are 25 students enrolled in this section.
- **Providing Services.** Services are rendered to about 50 non-resident individuals and families who are desperately poor. This help is in the form of meals, laundry service, bathing facilities and basic medical screening.
- **Shelter.** CAHL shelters a number of adult residents, two of them are blind and the rest are mentally challenged.
- **The Old Age Home.** CAHL's largest and most active service is the Old Age Home. We say HOME and not an institution, because we feel taking care of our elderly should be done in their homes and if there are other reasons for which they have to be cared for outside their personal homes, then it should feel like HOME. Under CAHL's care are currently 85 elderly women and men, half of whom are in the Home's hospital wing and require regular medical attention. The elderly are provided with shelter, meals, nursing, medical attention and most of all with love and care.

The prolonged civil war in Lebanon and the instability in the region have been the constant source of inflation and economic deterioration in the country. We thank God for His divine providence by which CAHL is continuing its ministry. We are also grateful to the FRIENDS of CAHL (partners, individuals and local institutions) for their continuous support. A center like CAHL needs a big family of staff (teachers, professionals, care-givers, nurses, helpers, cleaners, physiotherapists, office staff, etc.) to be able to serve smoothly, competently, and most of all to serve with care, love and kindness so that our elderly live their lives in relative comfort and dignity. CAHL should remain a source of pride for the Armenians and worthy of their support. □

Sebouh Terzian

Appointed Director of CAHL

Sebouh Terzian has been appointed Director of the Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL), also known as the Home for the Armenian Elderly.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Terzian is a graduate of the Armenian Evangelical Y & M Philibosian College and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Developmental Psychology from Beirut University College and a Master in Divinity from the Near East School of Theology.

From 1991-98, he was a social worker and program coordinator in the Armenian Evangelical Trad Social Center, and served as Office Director of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East at its Headquarters in Beirut from 1998 to 2012.

He has also served on a number of boards and committees including the Church Board of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh (Beirut, Lebanon), the Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Christian Endeavor Union in Lebanon and Syria, the Armenian Evangelical Social Action Committee and the Inter-Church Network for Development & Relief in Lebanon.



Orphan and Child Care

Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show

March 17, 2012

Preparations are underway for the AMAA LA Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Fashion Show, scheduled for Saturday, March 17 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. For over two decades, the AMAA has provided countless families and children with much needed care and financial support. From establishing and supporting kindergartens to facilitating scholarships in both Armenia and Karabagh, to creating summer and day camps for more than 6,000 children and teenagers, as well as launching many art and sports programs, the AMAA has been there. The annual Luncheon and Fashion Show is your opportunity to be a part of this wonderful organization, while spending time with friends and family, enjoying a fabulous Fashion Show and a delicious luncheon in a venue fit for the stars!

This year's Fashion Show and Luncheon, produced by Nordstrom and spearheaded by Co-Chairs Nicole Nishanian, Leslie Shahinian and Marilyn Bezdikian, is sure to be a sell-out! The Fashion Show is being organized by Marilyn Bezdikian and Ani Zakari.

"So many young models have already signed up because they had such an amazing experience last year and, for some of them, for several years. We still have room for more children, so please contact Ani or me if you would like to have your child participate on March 17," said Marilyn, who along with Ani, has been working long hours, coordinating the models for fittings and practices and working one on one with the Nordstrom representatives selecting the beautiful fashions which will be displayed on March 17.

"The atmosphere this year is so vibrant. The theme, 'Children Helping Children,' has created so much participation from children of various ages. The energy is overwhelming and I know the show is going to be absolutely fabulous" said Ani, while at the same time taking a call from yet another young lady who wanted to be part of the show.

This year's Silent Auction will also be spectacular, with many priceless items such as authentic works of art, original works of craftsmanship from Armenia, vacations in beautiful venues such as San Francisco, breathtaking crystal and porcelain pieces from Lalique to Baccarat, stunning jewelry pieces, gift baskets galore, sports' events, spa packages, and tickets to sold out venues! As always, the Silent Auction is expected to bring the ladies into the Beverly Hills Hotel earlier than usual just so that they can take a peek at all these wonderful items and place their bid in the hopes of winning their coveted item of choice. Sandy Bedrosian and Christina Jabarian, this year's Silent Auction Co-Chairs, are so very excited with the absolutely outstanding items coming in from donors. "The auction items are just beautiful and I am so very thankful to all of our donors for their generosity. They know that the funds raised



from this event will reach a child in his or her hour of need in a land that is far away from Los Angeles but never too far from our hearts and minds. We have been doing this consistently for over twenty years now and I am so touched by our donors' responsiveness," said Christina, while categorizing a beautiful strand of pearls she just received for the Auction.

A sneak preview has revealed that the gift bag each guest will take home will be amazing. The great items included are all donated by Jessica Vartoughian from her personal line.

The support that the AMAA Child and Orphan Care Committee has continuously received is astounding but not surprising, according to Joyce Stein, the National Co-Chair of the Committee. "All of the funds raised from this annual event directly benefit needy children. With such a simple formula, and with all efforts made to reach out to all children and their families who are in need, the AMAA Child and Orphan Care Committee has gained the trust of all its donors – and then some. When heartfelt donations come in, and most have such emotional messages attached to them, it brings tears to my eyes, because I know that after such hard work, such dedication, our committee has built such a strong foundation that with God's blessing, it will always be there to help all who are in need."

The AMAA Child and Orphan Care Committee Luncheon is one that you should not miss. Your presence and support will be appreciated by the children of Armenia, but more importantly, at the end of the event, YOU will feel gratified by what you have accomplished by attending and feel so much more thankful for what God has blessed each one of us with.

For reservations or further information, please contact Elizabeth Agbabian at (310) 476-5306 or Savey Tufenkian at (818) 956-8455. Ticket donations are \$85.00. □

The Armenian Children's Milk Fund and You: Continuing to Make a Difference

Armenia has overcome many challenges since its independence. However, many obstacles remain. The poor people of Armenia remain desperately poor and, in many cases, unable to provide their newborns and infants with sufficient nourishment.

The mission of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund (ACMF) is to assist those children in Armenia who would otherwise not receive adequate nutrition. ACMF accomplishes its mission through a sustaining nutrition program, providing soy-based Isomil infant formula to needy infants during their first year of life. The Fund focuses on children whose mothers are ill, absent or for some reason physically unable to breastfeed, as well as those from families too poor to purchase formula.

During its history of helping children in Armenia, ACMF has at times supplied dry powdered milk and Pedialyte. However, ACMF has concentrated on providing Isomil for a variety of reasons. Powdered formula is packaged so that it survives the long trip from the United States to Armenia, unlike dry powdered milk which is often distributed in fragile packages and is sensitive to dampness. Isomil is lactose free so it can be digested by most infants with lactose intolerance or other digestive problems. Finally, unlike dry powdered milk, Isomil cannot be used for any other purpose. Since its inception, ACMF has benefited from the generosity of Abbott Laboratories, the manufacturer of Isomil, who provides Isomil to ACMF at a lower cost.

For over twenty years, with the loving support of volunteers and donors, the Armenian Children's Milk Fund has been able to supply formula to more than ten thousand Armenian infants, providing a nutritious foundation for future promise in growth and development. Studies have found that:

- Receiving proper nutrients is essential to maintain the health and growth of a baby's brain
- Lack of nutrition hinders growth in brain size, which can result in behavioral and cognitive problems
- Serious multiple deficits can occur if a baby does not receive proper nutrients.

Pictured below is just one of the many needy children who would otherwise not receive proper nutrition and whose families cannot afford to buy formula.



Have a Heart, Show You Care



I would like to support and enable ACMF to make a difference in the lives of Armenia's most vulnerable citizens. \$20 will feed one child for one month - \$240 will feed one child for one year.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please make checks payable to AMAA, earmarked for Milk Fund and mail to 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card or electronic debit from a checking account, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or visit www.amaa.org to make your donation online.

Jazz Sensation Grace Kelly Performs Concert For Avedisian School Children

Grace Kelly is an award winning saxophonist, singer, songwriter, composer/arranger from Brookline, MA. Having studied saxophone since the age of ten, she is rapidly making her way up in the jazz music world.

Trumpeter and Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis was so impressed with Kelly's three-night stand as guest of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, that he invited her to join the ensemble at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C. Harry Connick, Jr. heard Kelly in a master class on a December afternoon and brought her on stage to sit in with his band that night. Since then, Kelly has been voted "Best Jazz Act" in Boston for four consecutive years in the FNX/Phoenix Best Music Poll, received the ASCAP Foundation's Young Jazz Composer's Award in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011 and won "Jazz Artist of the Year" at the Boston Music Awards in both 2008 and 2010. The 2009, 2010 and 2011 Downbeat Critics Poll added her to the list naming her one of the "Alto Saxophone Rising Stars", the youngest ever to be named so. Grace graduated from the Berklee College of Music in December.

On January 21, the Grace Kelly Quintet performed at a fundraiser for the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, MA. The event, which was attended by over 200 people, benefited The Avedisian School in Armenia. In an email to her fans, Kelly explained her support for school children in Armenia: "Yes, it's true. I am of Korean descent, have an Irish name and Armenian relatives. Educational opportunities for all is a cause I truly believe in."

This was an extraordinary night with Grace displaying a prodigiously virtuosic mastery on not just the alto sax, but the



L to R: Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., (Chair of AMAA Development Committee), Pamela Avedisian (Avedisian School Benefactor), Saxophonist Grace Kelly and Edward Avedisian (Avedisian School Benefactor).

soprano saxophone as well. Combine that with an incredible voice and her original compositions, and you have some idea of the maturity and depth of her talent. Her vocal style is one that includes scat singing which alone would have been extraordinary. But Grace stretched further and during one scat segment added an improvised tale on the spot relating to the evening and The Avedisian High School. That was not to be believed. Needless to say, the audience fell apart and a vociferous audience reaction greeted her at the end of the number. There aren't enough words to define her musical gifts as she also composes deeply sensitive words and feelings in her compositions as was shown in her song "Eggshells." From there she was equally at home in her rendition of Thelonious Monk's, "Round Midnight." Grace and her quintet again brought the house down with that old standard we all know as "Down by the Riverside." It should be noted that the quintet was equally impressive as the audience was treated to extended solos on guitar/ bass/trumpet and drums. What a night for music!

Plans are underway for a similar benefit concert by Ms. Kelly in Philadelphia. The Lexington, MA event was organized with the help of the Boston University Armenian Student's Association, the Avedisian family, Daniel Hagopian, Seta Kalajian, and Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq. (who proudly acknowledges that she is one of Grace Kelly's Armenian relatives). □



AMAA Welcomes Two New Directors

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) recently appointed two new Directors – **Armen Beylerian, Field Director**, and **Phyllis Dohanian, Director of Development and Marketing**.

Armen comes to the AMAA from VISA, Inc. in Foster City, CA where he worked in Program Management and Corporate Information Technology for 11 years. Prior to that position, he worked at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco for 19 years. At the AMAA, Armen will work closely with AMAA's Executive Director Levon Filian, interact with the North American churches, chapters, missions and schools, help increase participation and donations and evaluate AMAA programs.

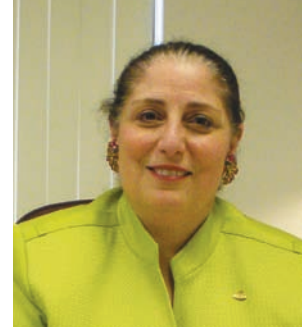
Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Armen emigrated to Canada at the age of 11 with his parents. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada.

Armen has been very involved in many aspects of the Armenian Evangelical Church for many years. In Toronto, he was active in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto. Since 1981, he has been a member of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco. There he served in various capacities including Youth Leader and Teacher, Council Member, Treasurer, Moderator of the Council, Food Festival Coordinator and participated in many church activities including the Men's Group and the Church Choir.



"I look forward to my service with the AMAA," said Armen, "and to supporting the work of the Lord."

Phyllis joined the AMAA in January and is no stranger to the AMAA. She is a former member of the AMAA Board of Directors and is currently completing her term as Vice Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). Phyllis will be overseeing Development, Marketing, Public Relations, Special Events, and AMAA Publications.



A native of the Boston, MA area, Phyllis graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor's degree in History and Math and a Master's degree in the Ford Foundation's Administrative Leadership and Development Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

She is a member of the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA. She is also very involved in Boston's arts and cultural community having served on the Board of Overseers for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as a founding Overseer Chair for Boston Ballet, Chair of the Old North Foundation, and as Community Vice President for the Junior League of Boston, among others.

Phyllis has served as a consultant to corporations, and worked in various Human Resources, International Operations and Development positions serving as Director of Development for Boston's Museum of Science and as Executive Director and CEO of The French Library and Cultural Center, also in Boston.

"The AMAA has been a very important part of my life and I hope to give something back to this highly regarded organization which supports thousands of Armenian children and families around the world," said Phyllis. □

Armenian Churches of Worcester County, MA Organize First Annual Dance to Benefit AMAA Milk Fund

On Saturday, April 28, the Armenian churches in Worcester County, MA are joining together to sponsor a dance, which will benefit the AMAA's Armenian Children's Milk Fund as well as Habitat for Humanity Armenia and The Voice of the Armenian Church.

The dance will be held at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center, 34 Boynton Street from 7 p.m. to midnight and will feature the live Armenian music of John Berberian, Mal Barsamian, Jay Baronian and Bruce Gigarjian as well as DJ Shaheen. The cost is \$30 per ticket (\$25 for students). For tickets and for further information, please contact Stephen Papazian at (508) 842-7898 between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. ET.

The sponsoring churches are Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian Church of Our Saviour and the Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church.

The mission of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund is to assist those children in Armenia who would otherwise not receive adequate nutrition. The Fund provides soy-based Isomil infant formula to needy infants during their first year of life and focuses on children whose mothers are ill, absent or for some reason are physically unable to breastfeed, and whose families are too poor to purchase formula. For over 20 years, the Milk Fund has been able to supply formula to over 10,000 Armenian infants.

For those in Worcester County unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to your church and indicate that the donation is for the charity dance.

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Թութիկեան *

Ընթացիկ տարին, 2012-ը, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան (ԱՀԱԸ) հիմնադրութեան 94-րորդ տարեդարձն է: Անճանչցուած է *Աւետարանչական* անունով՝ ծնունդ առած Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութեան Յունիս 7, 1918-ի տարեկան համաժողովին, որ գումարուեցաւ Հայ Աւետարանական Նահատակաց Եկեղեցիին մէջ, Վուստըր, Մէսէչուսէց:

Քսաներորդ դարու Սփիւռքի հայոց պատմութեան ամէնէն ցայտուն գլուխներէն մին կը կազմէ Աւետարանչականի պատմութիւնը, անոր կեանքն ու օգտաշատ գործը: Համայնքային մեր կարիքներու երկունքին արգասիքը եղող այս կազմակերպութիւնը հայկական ցեղասպանութենէն մազապուրծ ազատած սրտաբեկ մեր «Մնացորդաց» ին յոյս ներշնչող հզօր ազդակ մը հանդիսացաւ: Անոր խնամատարական դերը իր սկզբնական տարիներուն՝ հալածական եւ վիրաւոր մեր ժողովուրդի բեկորներուն հանդէպ, զայն վերածեց բուժիչ ձեռքի մը, երկարած մեր վերքերուն եւ խոցերուն:

Աւետարակոյս, Սփիւռքահայ մեր պատմութեան անցնող աւելի քան ինը տասնամեակներուն Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը եղաւ աղէտաւոր հայութեան «Բարի Սամարացի»: Ան հայ ժողովուրդին բերաւ իր ծառայութիւնը մէկէ աւելի ուղիներով: Ան իր նպաստը բերաւ հայ Գիրին եւ Դպրութեան, Հայ Եկեղեցիին եւ մշակոյթին: Արտասահմանի մէջ մանաւանդ, եւ Հայաստանի երրորդ Հանրապետութեան անկախացումի օրերէն ասդին, մեծ եղաւ անոր օժանդակութիւնը հայաբնակ երկիրներու մէջ՝ կրթական, դպրոցաշինական, մարդասիրական, աւետարանչական եւ հոգեւոր մարզերուն մէջ:

Աւետարանչականին գործունէութիւնը ամէն տարի կ'ընդարձակուի, կը զարգանայ նոր գաղափարներով, նոր ծրագիրներով: Ան ոչ միայն խնամատարական եւ մարդասիրական կազմակերպութիւն մըն է, այլ նաեւ հայկական եւ քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան սատարող մեծ կազմակերպութիւն մը, իր անմիջական հոգածութեան տակ ունենալով Հայ Աւետարանական կրթարաններ՝ մանկապարտեզէն մինչեւ համալսարանական ուսում ստացող աշակերտներու կրթաթոշակ հայթայթելով: Այս կրթական հաստատութիւններուն մէջ տասնամեակներ շարունակ հազարաւոր հայ մանուկներ ստացած են, եւ դեռ կը ստանան, քրիստոնէական եւ հայեցի ընտիր դաստիարակութիւն: Յատկանշական է, որ այս դպրոցներու աշակերտութեան 90 տոկոսէն աւելին ոչ հայ աւետարանական հայորդիներ

են, որոնք առանցխտրութեան կրթանպաստ կը ստանան:

Այսօր հազարաւոր շրջա-նաւարտներ, որոնք պատուաւոր քաղաքացիներ դարձած են Մայր Հայրենիքի կամ Սփիւռքի զանազան երկիրներու մէջ, երախտապարտ են Աւետարանչականին:

Պատանեկան, երիտասարդական, մշակութային, կրթական, խնամատարական, հրատարակչական, աւետարանչական եւ այլ բազմերես իր գործունէութեամբ, մեծանուն այս Ընկերակցութիւնը իր երկարատեւ եւ ժրջան ծառայութեամբ փայլուն մէկ ապացոյց կը կազմէ մեր ցեղի կենսունակութեան:

Ներկայիս Աւետարանչականը ունի 94 տարիներու պատկառելի վաստակ եւ ծառայութիւն՝ անշահախնդրօրէն մատուցուած համայն հայութեան: Անոր անդամակցութիւնը քսան երկու հազարը կ'անցնի եւ անոր հասոյթները կը հասնին շուրջ հարիւր երեսուն վեց միլիոն տոլարի: Անոր տարեկան պիւտձէն մօտաւորապէս եօթուկէս միլիոն տոլար է՝ յատկացուած աւելի քան 140 ծրագիրներու, որոնց միջոցով ծառայութիւն կը մատուցուի հազարաւոր կարօտ հայորդիներու աշխարհի չորս ծագերուն տարածուած:

Աւետարանչականին բոլոր ծրագիրները կ'իրագործուին շնորհիւ հազարաւոր անձերու անսակարկ ծառայութեան, անձնուէր ջանքերուն եւ նիւթական օժանդակութեան: Անոնք իրենց նիւթական, մտաւոր եւ հոգեւոր ներդրումով, նեցուկ կը կանգնին Աւետարանչականին:

Անվարան կրնանք ըսել, որ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը իր ազգաշէն օրինակելի ծառայութեամբ, իր լուսամիտ եւ հեռատես յանձնառութիւններով, իր մարդասիրական, կրթական եւ մշակութային ընդարձակ գործունէութիւններով՝ թէ՛ Հայաստանի եւ թէ՛ Սփիւռքի մէջ օրինութեան աղբիւր մը դարձած է համայն հայութեան համար:

Այս ամէնուն համար Աստուծոյ փառք եւ գոհաբանութիւն կը մատուցանենք եւ կ'աղօթենք որ Ան միշտ երկնային օրհնութիւնները առատօրէն թափէ այս սքանչելի Ընկերակցութեան վրայ: □



** Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թութիկեան
Գործադիր Տնօրէնն է Հայ Աւետարանական
Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի*



Ես խորապէս կը հաւատամ, որ Քրիստոս մեզի հետ է: Արդարեւ, ասիկա Հաւատքի հաղորդակցութիւն մըն է, սիրոյ հաղորդակցութիւն մը, եւ յոյսի հաղորդակցութիւն մը:

Ասիկա է Եկեղեցին: Ես միշտ կը յիշեցնեմ մեր ժողովուրդին, թէ Եկեղեցին տեղ մը չէ՝ ուր կ'երթանք: Եկեղեցին հաստատութիւն մը չէ, որ կը գործէ մեր համայնքային կեանքին մէջ: Եկեղեցին կրնայ ունենալ, եւ պէտք է ունենայ հաստատութեան մը դիմագիծը, բայց իսկութեան մէջ Եկեղեցին է համայնքը: Մենք ենք համայնքը: Յաճախ մենք կը մոռնանք համայնքը՝ Եկեղեցին հաղորդակցութիւն մը ըլլալու յատկանիշները, եւ մենք Եկեղեցին կը վերածենք միայն ծիսակատարութեան, վարչական գործընթացներու եւ այնպիսի այլ բաներու, որոնք միայն արտաքինապէս կ'արտայայտեն մեր փափաքները: Այդ մէկը Եկեղեցի չէ: Եկեղեցին միայն ու միայն հաղորդակցութիւն մըն է: Յիսուս Քրիստոս մեզ իրար կը միացնէ եւ անդադար կը յիշեցնէ մեզի, թէ մենք Աստուծոյ ժողովուրդին գերագոյն երջանկութեան ծամբուն վրայ ենք: Այս է Եկեղեցին, եւ մենք ուրախ ենք, որ նման հասկացողութեամբ, Եկեղեցին՝ մեր Եկեղեցիները - Հայ Առաքելական, Աւետարանական եւ Կաթողիկէ Եկեղեցիները, իրար հետ կը շփուին իսկական հաղորդակցութեամբ մը:

Մենք կրնանք տարբեր դաւանական հասկացողութիւններ ունենալ, կրնանք տարբեր աստուածաբանական կողմնորոշումներ ունենալ: Բայց իսկութեան մէջ մենք կը պատկանինք Քրիստոսի մէկ Եկեղեցիին: Մենք կրնանք Հայ Առաքելական, Հայ Աւետարանական կամ Հայ Կաթողիկէ ըլլալ, բայց այս Եկեղեցիները միասնաբար կը պատկանին մէկ Հայ Քրիստոնեայ Հաղորդակցութեան մը: Մենք հասարակաց արմատներ ունինք: Մենք բոլորս ալ կը պատկանինք նոյն ծառին: Մենք նոյն ծառին տարբեր ճիւղերն ենք: Մենք չենք կրնար մոռնալ պատմութիւնը որովհետեւ տարբեր շէտեր ունինք: Այս երեք Եկեղեցիները խորասուզուած են Հայ Քրիստոնէութեան կեանքին մէջ: Ես միշտ կը յիշեմ հանրածանօթ Հայ Աւետարանական աստուածաբան Լեւոն Արփին եւ իր հանրածանօթ գիրքը - Հայ Քրիստոնէութիւնը: Կը թելաթելեմ որ կարդաք այդ գիրքը: Մենք բոլորս ալ կը պատկանինք մէկ Հայ Քրիստոնեայ աւանդութեան մը, որ կը պարփակէ միեւնոյն արժեքները, միեւնոյն հոգեկան զգացողութիւնը, բայց տարբեր շէտով, տարբեր տեսակէտով, տարբեր ձեւով եւ տարբեր հնչաբանութեամբ: Բայց իսկութեան մէջ Հայ Եկեղեցին մէկ է իր ամբողջութեամբ: Եւ ես ուրախ եմ, որ այսօր մօտիկ գործակցութիւն կայ Հայ Աւետարանական եւ Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցիին միջեւ ընդհանրապէս եւ Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան միջեւ՝ յատկապէս:

Ասիկա պարզապէս տեսական նախադասութիւն մը չէ. Ասիկա պարզապէս ցանկալի մտածելակերպ մը չէ: Ասիկա իրականութեան մէջ պաշտօնական բան մըն է: Մեր գործակցութիւնը նաեւ փոխադարձ սիրով է, հասկացողութեամբ եւ վստահութեամբ: Մեր գործակցութիւնը կ'ընդգրկէ մեր Եկեղեցական կեանքի մասնալատկութիւնները, բայց յատուկ շէտ կը դնէ մեր Եկեղեցական կեանքի դաստիարակչական եւ ծիսական դրոշմներուն վրայ: Լիբանանի մէջ Ազունիի Հիւանդանոցը, Հայ Ծերերու եւ Անկարներու Կեդրոնը եւ Թշնոց Բոյն Որբանոցը հաստատութիւններ են, որ մեր Եկեղեցիները միասնաբար պատասխանատուութիւններ ունին, որ անոնք միասնաբար կը ծառայեն մեր ժողովուրդին: Եւ մենք պէտք չէ մոռնանք պատմութիւնը, թէ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին շատ մեծ դեր ունեցած է մեր ժողովուրդին կրթական մարզին մէջ: Ծատ մը հաստատութիւնները Սուրիոյ, Լիբանանի եւ այլ տեղերու մէջ ծնունդ առած են եւ կառավարուած են մեր Հայ Աւետարանական եղբայրներու եւ քոյրերու կողմէ:

Պատմական պայմաններու պատճառով, եւ ասիկա խոստովանութիւն մըն է, Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցին շէտը դրած է մեր Եկեղեցական կեանքի եւ վկայութեան ազգային ուղղութեան վրայ: Պարագլուխ մը կար: Եւ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին եկաւ լեցնելու այդ պարագլուխը յատուկ կարեւորութիւն տալով մեր համայնքային կեանքի աւետարանչական եւ ուսումնական ուղեգիծին վրայ:

Եւ այսօր, մենք կը հաւատանք որ մեր Եկեղեցիները պէտք է զօրացնեն իրենց գործակցութիւնը: Ծատ մը տարածքներ կան մեր կեանքին մէջ, ուր այս գործակցութիւնը ոչ թէ միայն կարելիութիւն է, բայց ինչպէս ըսի, մենք բոլորս մէկ համայնքի կը պատկանինք, մէկ ազգի, մէկ ժողովուրդի: Մենք կանչուած ենք ծառայելու մեր ժողովուրդին տարբեր միջոցներով, տարբեր ձեւերով, տարբեր առաջնահերթութիւններով: Մեր գործի դաշտը մեր ժողովուրդն է, եւ գործի դաշտ ըսելով, ես կ'ուզեմ ըսել ծառայել մեր ժողովուրդին: Ասիկա է Եկեղեցիին գործը: Եկեղեցին հեղինակութեան մը կեդրոնը չէ: Եկեղեցին ծառայութեան հոգի մըն է:

Եւ Եկեղեցիին հեղինակութիւնը ժողովուրդին ծառայութեան մէջ կը կենայ: Ասիկա Եկեղեցիին ծառայութիւնն է. Եկեղեցին ինքնակեդրոն, ինքնիրեն գոյատեւող եւ ինքնաբաւ իրականութիւն մը չէ: Եկեղեցին Եկեղեցի կը դառնայ բառին բուն առումով, երբ ինք իրմէ անդին կ'անցնի: Ես կը սիրեմ ըսել երբ Եկեղեցին իր պատերէն անդին կ'անցնի, Եկեղեցին Եկեղեցի կը դառնայ ժողովուրդին կեանքին մէջ, տեսնելով աղքատը, դուրս ձգուածը եւ ճնշուածը:

Մենք միասնաբար, մեր Եկեղեցիները միասնաբար, Առաքելական, Աւետարանական եւ Կաթողիկէ պէտք է գործենք միասնաբար: Ասիկա մեծ մարտահրաւէր մըն է դրուած մեր առջեւ: Մենք պէտք է ծառայենք միասնաբար Հայաստանի մէջ: Մենք պէտք է ծառայենք միասնաբար մեր համայնքներուն մէջ, ուր որ կ'երթանք, որովհետեւ մենք կանչուած ենք ծառայելու մեր ժողովուրդին, զօրացնելով մեր միութիւնը, եւ արդիւնաբեր ըլլալով մեր ժողովուրդին ծառայութեան մէջ:

Ուրեմն, անգամ մը եւս, կ'ուզեմ իմ ուրախութիւնս արտայայտել որ ձեր հետ կը գտնուիմ եւ այս առիթով ձեր ուրախութիւնը կը բաժնեկցիմ: Թող Աստուած օրհնէ մեր Եկեղեցիները: Թող Աստուած օրհնէ մեր ժողովուրդը Հայաստանի մէջ, Դարաբաղի մէջ, Միացեալ Նահանգներու մէջ, Գանատայի մէջ, եւ ուր որ գտնուին անոնք: Մենք մեր ժողովուրդէն կու գանք: Մենք կը պատկանինք ժողովուրդին, եւ մենք կանչուած ենք ծառայելու մեր ժողովուրդին՝ Սուրբ Հոգիին զօրութեամբ: Թող Աստուած օրհնէ ձեզ բոլորը: ☐

Mary Darakjian Ajemian

Mary Darakjian Ajemian passed away on December 1, 2011 in Yerevan, Armenia. She was born in Antioch, Syria, and spent her childhood years living with her family in two villages in Musa Dag (Bitias first, then in Yoghun Oluk).



The family vacationed in Bitias during the summers in the 1930s. In 1938, Marie and her friend, Alberta Magzanian, went to Aleppo and were the first borders at the American High School for Girls. She graduated in June 1943. During those years, a separate campus called the American College for Boys housed the young men.

In 1939, when the French handed the Armenian villages that were then in Syria to Turkey, many Armenians, including the Darakjians, left their homes and possessions behind and went to Aleppo. Mary graduated from the Aleppo College for Girls, taught elementary school for a short time, and then joined the Iraq Petroleum Company as a secretary both in Homs and in Tripoli. Following her marriage, she moved to Lebanon and worked at the American University of Beirut School of Public Health for 20 years.

After her husband, Paylag, passed away, Mary moved to the United States in 1976. She worked at Clark University in Worcester, MA and later moved to New Jersey where she worked at Bell Laboratories until her retirement. She spent most of her active retirement years raising her granddaughter, Anahid Shoushan Vassilian. In 2006, she moved to Yerevan with her granddaughter.

She is survived by her son, Mihran; her daughter, Asbed (Zabel Vassilian) and her granddaughter, Anahid.

Burial was in the Davitashen Cemetery in Yerevan. The family suggests that memorial donations be sent to the Armenian Missionary Association of America for the Adopt a Granny program in Armenia. □

Siran Jizmejian

Siran Jizmejian, widow of the late Rev. Apraham Jizmejian, passed away on January 7, 2012 in Toronto, Ontario Canada after a brief hospitalization. She was also the mother-in-law of Rev.



L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor of the Armenian

Martyrs' Congregational Church in Haver-town, PA.

She began her schooling at the Armenian Evangelical Central High School and then attended the École de l'Immaculée Conception in Ashrafieh. She spent her high school years at the British Syrian Training College and graduated in 1947 from the British College for Women, presently known as the Lebanese American University. She was an athlete and a musician, singing in choirs and using her piano and organ skills in the Church or wherever they were needed.

Siran was active in her ministry alongside her husband in Armenian Brethren and Armenian Evangelical churches in Beirut, Lebanon, and later in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto. She sang in the Church choir and as an elder was active in outreach visitations, paying special attention to the elderly in their homes or in nursing facilities. Her love for the Lord was expressed in her active ministry in the church and to her family, and she continued that ministry well after her husband's passing in 1992.

She is survived by seven children Any (Les Wilk), Maria (Rev. Nishan Bakalian), Arpi (Arthur Keoshkerian), Hasmig (Jean Abrahamian), Lida, Kevork, and Hrag (Erica); and nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on January 12 at the Armenian Evangelical Church in Markham, Ontario Canada. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the "Rev. & Mrs. A.K. Jizmejian Theological Fund", a scholarship fund that she and her husband established for training a new generation of Armenian Evangelical ministers. Checks should be sent to the Armenian Evangelical Church, 2600 14th Avenue, Markham, Ontario L3R 3X1, Canada. □

Arlene Gale Srabian

Arlene Gale Srabian, a teacher, artist, mother and grandmother, passed away on January 14, 2012 in Fresno, CA at the age of 67.

She was born in Fresno, the daughter of George Gulian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, and Hazel Vartanian, a native of Parlier, CA. She received a bachelor's degree in art from California State University, Fresno, CA in 1968.

Arlene began her teaching career in Fresno and also taught in Burlingame, CA before taking time off to raise her two children. She dedicated 28 years to teaching kindergarten



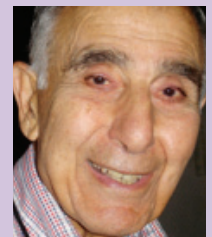
before retiring in June 2010. Her little students were the loves of her life and she affectionately called them her "mama loves." While battling her illness this past year, she returned to the classroom to teach art because it was in this medium, surrounded by her students, that she found her joy.

Arlene had a love and exuberance for life, a gift for painting, and her bright smile would brighten up any room. She was very involved in the Armenian Community and Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, and would often be seen at the AEUNA Biennial Assemblies with a bus-load of children from the church.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Robert; son Bryan (Selena); daughter, Shayla (future son-in-law Erik Pulatian); and two grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Joann Vahanian and her husband Michael, of Fresno. □

Vahey S. Gulezian

Vahey S. Gulezian, a modern day Renaissance man, passed away on January 16, 2012 in Andover, MA at the age of 92. He was born in Haverhill to the late Sarkis and Armenouhi Gulezian.



A graduate of Haverhill High School, he attended the Franklin Institute of Technology and was a registered professional electrical engineer with Herbert A. Holder Company in Boston prior to his retirement.

Vahey had a love and appreciation for jazz and classical music, photography, the culinary arts and technology. As an electrical engineer, he contributed his expertise to many church and civic projects and was known for his wholehearted interest in others and by his encouragement of their aspirations, projects and pursuits. He touched the lives of countless people, both young and old, and from different faiths and cultures within every community where he lived and worked. He was an active member of the West Parish Church community for over 50 years, serving as a Deacon and Elder. He was fiercely proud of his Armenian heritage, serving as a Commander for the Knights of Vartan.

Vahey is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his sons Gary (Greta), and Mark (Frederica); his daughters Donna (Matthew) and Andrea; and seven grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on January 21 at West Parish Church in Andover. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made

to the Armenian Missionary Association of America for the Sarkis and Armenouhi Gulezian Endowment Fund or to the West Parish Church. □

Zabel K. Barsumyan

Zabel Karamanougian Barsumyan died peacefully at the age of 84 on January 26, 2012.

She was born in Aleppo to Mari and Kevork Karamanougian and graduated from the Bethel Armenian Evangelical School in Aleppo. In 1947, she wed Syrian businessman and labor leader Edward Barsumyan in the Emanuel Evangelical Church in Aleppo and in 1960 they moved to Hamden, CT where Zabel was a homemaker and Edward worked as a machinist at Olin Mathesen.

Zabel was a faith-filled woman, widely known as a gifted cook and gracious hostess for the steady stream of visitors to their home which included many grateful families immigrating to the USA. She occasionally worked as a seamstress in the Saxony Coat Company and later in food service at Arden House Nursing Home. She was active in the Hamden United Methodist Church and later in the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, NJ where she was a member of the Women's Guild and the orphan programs.

She is predeceased by her husband, Edward and her daughter Silva. She is survived by her children Antranig, Aleetz and Nellie and three grandchildren. □

Nazareth M. Chaderjian

Nazareth (Naz) M. Chaderjian of Fresno, CA passed away peacefully on January 25, 2012 at the age of 86.

Born in Highland Park, MI, his family moved to Fresno. He earned the highly respected MAI designation in real estate appraising and worked for the California Department of Transportation for 36 years. He was a member of the Appraisal Institute and charter member of the International Right of Way Association of Fresno. Naz was an active member of the Fresno Triple X Armenian Fraternity, the Men's Society of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and the Men's Forum of Saint Paul's Armenian Church.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Stella; sons Neal (Wendy) and Bruce (Anie), and four grandchildren, Sarah, Lisa, Aria and Daniel.

Funeral services were held on February 3 at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church



in Fresno. The family suggests that memorial donations be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America Orphan and Child Care Program or to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. □

Ovsanna Keshishian

Ovsanna Keshishian of Swarthmore, PA passed away on February 4, 2012 after a period of hospitalization. She was 88.

Following the deportation of the Armenians from Aintab, her family first settled in Damascus, Syria. Her mother passed away when she was three after contracting malaria while ministering to the sick. The family moved to Beirut in the mid-1930s. After graduating from high school and then the British Syrian Training College (now Lebanon Evangelical School) for teacher training, Ovsanna attended the Near East School of Theology as a Christian Education major. She taught elementary children at the First Armenian Evangelical Church School in Beirut for two years before marrying Garabed Keshishian in 1952 and raising four children.

Garbed died suddenly in March, 1975, the year that civil war in Lebanon broke out again. Ovsanna courageously moved with her children to the United States in 1977 and settled in the Philadelphia area where she worked as a nurse's aide at Saunders House and later at Broomall Presbyterian Home. She also bravely learned to drive at the age of 60.

Her presence at church and her testimony to God's goodness touched those who came to know her. After her children established their own homes, she moved to Swarthmore. Her home continued to be central to family



gatherings; her freezer filled with Armenian delicacies ready for any impromptu visit.

During her last illness, Ovsanna's outlook and faith illuminated her actions and touched all the medical personnel and residents who worked with her. She is survived by her children, Vicken (Jeannette), Ara (Karen) and Arpie (Bill Hudson); and grandchildren Rachael and Sarah Keshishian; her sister Yevnige Salibian; sister-in-law Rose Keshishian; the extended Aposhian and Keshishian relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held on February 11 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA followed by the interment at Edgewood Memorial Park in Glen Mills, PA. □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- * **Haigazoun Injeikian**
Pasadena, CA
- * **Jean Maun**
Fayetteville, PA
- * **Kevork Norian**
Arlington MA
- * **Grace Ohnigian**
Philadelphia, PA
- * **George Ouzounian**
Tarzana, CA
- * **Roae Tutelian Shahabian**
Foxborough, NH
- * **Mary Steers**
Fredrick, MD
- * **Zabel Torosian**
Fresno, CA

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

AMAA NEWS is going GREEN

The AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. In exchange for your e-mail address, the AMAA will send you a copy of the AMAA NEWS via e-mail. This link will give you the news as soon as it is available without waiting for publication.

We encourage you to let us know if you are interested in receiving the AMAA NEWS online. Please just send your e-mail address to us at amaanews@amaa.org or call us at 201.265.2607.

Thank you for helping the AMAA go GREEN!



Armenian Missionary Association of America

31 West Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 55

AMAA ANNOUNCES MEDICAL MISSION TRIP AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN ARMENIA



The AMAA is planning two exciting programs for 2012.

Medical Mission

June 14-23, 2012

Dr. Phillips Medical Mission Trip to Armenia

Armenia Internship Program

The AMAA will repeat its very successful 2011 Internship Program with a new Program from July 6-20, 2012 for senior high school and college age students. For more information, please contact Rev. Ara Chakerian at 818-332-9684 or revchakher@yahoo.com.